

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-01 SP-02 CU-04 /030 W

-----037917 301101Z /11

R 300926Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7775

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

USIA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 JAKARTA 4090

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, PINS, ID, SOPN

SUBJECT: SOME DETAINED STUDENTS RELEASED/STUDENT STRIKES AT  
ITB AND UI END/ISLAMIC YOUTH GROUPS STILL UNDER ATTACK

REF: JAKARTA 3683 (DTG 210940Z MAR 78)

1. SUMMARY. WITH THE END OF THE MPR, JAKARTA ON THE  
SURFACE AT LEAST HAS RETURNED TO A "BUSINESS AS USUAL"  
FOOTING. THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEGUN TO RELEASE STUDENTS  
DETAINED SINCE THE JANUARY 20 CRACKDOWN, AND STUDENT  
STRIKES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF INDONESIA (UI) AND THE  
BANDUNG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE (ITB) HAVE ENDED. DESPITE  
A PALPABLE EASING OF TENSION, SECURITY OFFICIALS CONTINUE  
TO CHARGE TWO ISLAMIC YOUTH GROUPS WITH PLANNING TERROR  
AND ILLEGAL POLITICAL ACTIVITY, WHILE DENYING ANY  
INTENTION TO "CORNER" ADHERENTS OF ISLAM. END SUMMARY.  
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2. IN THE WEEK SINCE THE MPR SESSION ENDED, LIFE IN  
JAKARTA ON THE SURFACE AT LEAST HAS RETURNED TO A  
"BUSINESS AS USUAL" FOOTING. SECURITY FORCES DEPLOYED  
AROUND THE CITY DURING THE MPR SESSION HAVE LARGELY  
DISAPPEARED FROM THE STREETS, AND THE SPECIAL MILITARY  
UNITS FORMED IN JAKARTA FOR THE MPR PERIOD WILL BE

DEACTIVATED APRIL 1. HIGH SCHOOLS REOPENED AS SCHEDULED MARCH 26 WITHOUT INCIDENT. THERE HAS BEEN NO OVERT DISSIDENT ACTIVITY IN THE CAPITAL SINCE THE MARCH 20 ARREST OF THE FIREBOMBERS (REFTEL).

3. AS WE ANTICIPATED, THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEGUN TO RELEASE SOME OF THE SEVERAL HUNDRED STUDENTS ARRESTED SINCE JANUARY 20, ADDING TO THE EASING OF TENSION. ON MARCH 29 THE SECURITY COMMAND (LAKSUS) OF WEST JAVA RELEASED 93 DETAINEES, ALL BUT SEVEN OF THEM STUDENTS AND MORE THAN HALF OF THEM FROM ITB AND BANDUNG'S PADJAJARAN UNIVERSITY. THE DAY BEFORE CENTRAL JAVA AUTHORITIES ANNOUNCED THE RELEASE OF 16 OF THEIR DETAINEES (AND SAID THAT ONLY 29 REMAIN IN JAIL IN CENTRAL JAVA, INCLUDING JOGJAKARTA). AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF STUDENTS HELD IN JAKARTA HAVE ALSO BEEN RELEASED IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS, AND ONE SECURITY OFFICIAL CLAIMED PUBLICLY THAT ONLY 39 STUDENTS REMAIN IN DETENTION IN THE CAPITAL CITY, NOT INCLUDING THOSE ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE MARCH 20 FIREBOMBING INCIDENTS. IT IS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT A LARGER NUMBER ARE STILL BEING HELD IN JAKARTA, HOWEVER, SINCE ONE DETAINEE, GIVEN TEMPORARY RELEASE TO ATTEND AN EASTER RELIGIOUS SERVICE AFTER THE CLAIM OF 39 WAS MADE, TOLD REPORTERS (IN THE PRESENCE OF A JAKARTA LAKSUS OFFICIAL) THAT 52 WERE STILL BEING HELD AT HIS DETENTION CENTER ALONE. OTHER THAN THE FIREBOMBING ARRESTS IN  
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JAKARTA, THE ONLY REPORTED RECENT ARRESTS OCCURRED IN SURABAYA MARCH 20 WHEN EIGHT STUDENTS OF THE STATE ISLAMIC INSTITUTE (IAIN) THERE WERE PICKED UP AFTER DEFYING ORDERS OF SECURITY OFFICIALS TO DISPERSE.

4. AS THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED, UI STUDENTS ENDED THEIR ACADEMIC STRIKE AFTER THE MPR SESSION AND RETURNED TO CLASS WITHOUT INCIDENT ON MARCH 27. MEANWHILE, THE ACTING CHAIRMAN OF THE ITB STUDENT COUNCIL TOLD A GATHERING OF 2000 STUDENTS IN BANDUNG ON MARCH 28 THAT ITB STUDENTS, HAVING SUCCEEDED IN "AROUSING PUBLIC OPINION TO FOSTER CHANGES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE'S FATE," WOULD TERMINATE THEIR STRIKE ON APRIL 1. THE STUDENTS' MOVE MAY HAVE BEEN PROMPTED IN PART BY THE OFFICIAL TERMINATION OF MILITARY CONTROL OF THE ITB CAMPUS ON MARCH 25, MARKED BY A HIGHLY PUBLICIZED ON-CAMPUS CEREMONY.

5. SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS INCLUDING VICE-PRESIDENT MALIK HAVE PUBLICLY EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT "NORMALCY" CAN BE RESTORED AT ALL OF INDONESIA'S CAMPUSES AND THAT A NEW STUDENT-GOVERNMENT DIALOGUE CAN BE INITIATED. UI

RECTOR MAHAR MARDJONO TOLD THE AMBASSADOR TODAY THAT MALIK REITERATED THAT MESSAGE IN A PRIVATE MEETING WITH MARDJONO, THE RECTOR OF THE BOGOR AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE (IPB) AND THE HEAD OF THE ITB RECTORIUM. MALIK PROMISED THE THREE UNIVERSITY LEADERS THAT HE WOULD TRY TO FOSTER A NEW SPIRIT OF CONCILIATION IN INDONESIA AND THAT HE WOULD ALWAYS BE AVAILABLE TO TALK WITH FACULTY AND STUDENTS ABOUT THEIR PROBLEMS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 JAKARTA 4090

6. THE PRESS, PERHAPS SENSING THE EASING OF TENSION, HAS BEGUN TO GINGERLY TEST THE LIMITS OF PERMISSIBLE REPORTING. THE RESPECTED EVENING DAILY SINAR HARAPAN THIS WEEK PRINTED A FRONT PAGE STORY ON PUBLIC STATEMENTS MILDLY CRITICAL OF THE GOVERNMENT MADE BY DISSIDENT HEROES FORMER JAKARTA GOVERNOR ALI SADIKIN AND CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST BUYUNG NASUTION. ANY REPORTING OF THE ACTIVITIES OF SADIKIN AND BUYUNG (AMONG OTHERS) HAS BEEN BANNED SINCE THE JANUARY CRACKDOWN. THE MUSLIM-SUPPORTED DAILY PELITA, HAS, LITTLE BY LITTLE, INCREASED THE FRANKNESS AND COMPLETENESS OF ITS COVERAGE OF ANTI-GOVERNMENT SPEECHES AND COMMENTS OF MUSLIM POLITICIANS.

7. WHILE THERE HAS BEEN A MARKED DECREASE IN TENSION ON

THE STUDENT DISSIDENT FRONT, HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO HIGHLIGHT AND TALK TOUGH ABOUT ALLEGED ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES OF TWO ISLAMIC GROUPS, THE GERAKAN  
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PEMUDA ISLAM (GPI) -- CHARGED WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MARCH 20 FIREBOMBING INCIDENTS -- AND THE GERAKAN MUDA ISLAM INDONESIA (GMII). WHILE THERE IS SOME CONFUSION ABOUT THE NUMBERS INVOLVED, IT APPEARS THAT A TOTAL OF 53 MEMBERS OF THESE TWO GROUPS ARE NOW IN JAIL, WITH MORE BEING SOUGHT. IN ADDITION TO THE GPI-LED FIREBOMBING, BOTH GROUPS ARE CHARGED WITH HOLDING ILLEGAL MEETINGS, PRODUCING AND DISTRIBUTING SUBVERSIVE DOCUMENTS, SOWING DISORDER, AND ULTIMATELY SEEKING THE OVERTHROW OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ISLAMIC STATE. EACH OF THESE CHARGES WAS EXPLORED AND "DOCUMENTED" IN JAKARTA MILITARY COMMANDER MAJ. GEN. NORMAN SASONO'S TELEVISED "EXPOSE" MENTIONED IN REFTEL. IN ADDITION TO SASONO'S STATEMENT, THE "EXPOSE" FEATURED FILM CLIPS OF THE INTERROGATION OF FOUR GPI ADHERENTS, WHO DISCUSSED IN SOME DETAIL THE ACTIVITIES WHICH LED TO THEIR ARRESTS, THEIR PERSONAL BACKGROUNDS AND THE PLANS OF THE GPI. THE GENERAL THRUST OF THE "EXPOSE" WAS THE GPI WAS ISLAMIC, ORGANIZED AND DANGEROUS. IN A LATER PRESS STATEMENT, SASONO REITERATED THAT JAKARTA SECURITY FORCES STILL ARE WORKING UNDER "SHOOT ON THE SPOT" ORDERS IF CONFRONTED BY TERRORISTS OR ROBBERS.

8. COMMENT. ON ALL FRONTS EXCEPT THE ISLAMIC ONE, THINGS ARE MARKEDLY MORE RELAXED THAN THEY HAVE BEEN SINCE MID-JANUARY. MOST OF THE NOISES COMING OUT OF STUDENT CIRCLES SUGGEST THAT, FOR THE SHORT TERM, THINGS ARE LIKELY TO REMAIN GENERALLY QUIET ON CAMPUS. STUDENTS WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO EXPRESS THEIR GRIEVANCES THROUGH PETITIONS AND STATEMENTS AND MAY TRY TO TEST THE NEW CABINET'S RECEPTIVITY TO FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS, BUT THEY ARE UNLIKELY TO TAKE TO THE STREETS IN LARGE NUMBERS FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. IN THAT REGARD, THE GOVERNMENT'S SUCCESS IN WAITING OUT  
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THE ITB STRIKE HAS REMOVED AN IMPORTANT POTENTIAL POINT OF PHYSICAL CONFRONTATION.

9. GOVERNMENT POLICY VIS-A-VIS THE MUSLIMS HAS STILL NOT JELLED. GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN HAVE REPEATEDLY CLAIMED THEY ARE NOT TRYING TO "CORNER" THE MUSLIMS BY THEIR CHARGES AGAINST

THE GPI AND GMII. AT A MINIMUM, SECURITY OFFICIALS ARE KEEPING  
THE GPI/GMII ISSUE ALIVE AS A POTENTIAL CLUB AGAINST  
RECALCITRANT MUSLIMS. A PROMINENT PPP MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
TOLD US TODAY THAT MUSLIMS GENERALLY ARE NOW ACTING AND  
TALING VERY CIRCUMSPECTLY, FEARFUL OF EITHER AN IMMEDIATE  
GOVERNMENT CRACKDOWN OR CLANDESTINE GOVERNMENT EFFORTS  
TO INCITE FURTHER MUSLIM DISSENT, PROVIDING THE EXCUSE  
FOR ALATER CRACKDOWN. IT IS WIDELY SUSPECTED IN MUSLIM  
CIRCLES, HE SAID, THAT THE GPI FIREBOMBERS WERE IN FACT  
VICTIMS OF GOVERNMENT INSTIGATION. THIS SOURCE ADDED,  
HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS CERTAIN THE GOVERNMENT WOULDN'T BE  
"SO STUPID" AS TO ARREST MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.  
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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, SOPN, ID  
**To:** STATE  
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